

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A drive current supply circuit for supplying drive current to a laser diode used for reading data from and writing data on an optical disk, comprising:

a first current mirror circuit having two parallel lines, said laser diode being connected with one of the two parallel lines; and

a control circuit connected with the other of the two parallel lines, said control circuit controlling the current flowing in this line in accordance with a potential of this line,

this potential comprising a steady DC component when reading data; and

this potential comprising a drive signal component added to said DC component when writing data,

wherein an amount of variation of the potential to reach the drive signal component is smaller, and the rise time is shorter, than a variation of the potential that consists solely of an AC component.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The drive current supply circuit according to claim 1, wherein said first current mirror circuit comprises first and second field-effect transistors with their gates connected in common,

wherein the channel of said first field-effect transistor is said one of said lines, and

wherein the channel of said second field-effect transistor is said other of said lines.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The drive current supply circuit according to claim 1, further comprising a second current mirror circuit having two parallel lines, one of said lines of said second current mirror circuit being connected with said laser diode,

wherein said control circuit controls the current flowing through the other of said lines of said second current mirror circuit in accordance with a potential of the other of said lines, this potential comprising a steady DC component when reading data; and this potential comprising a drive signal component added to said DC component when writing data.